Amendments to the Specification:

Please add the following new paragraph before the paragraph ending at page 1, line 3:

-- CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS

This application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/330,654, filed June 11, 1999, and entitled "Acidified Nitrite As An Antimicrobial Agent," which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 08/696,930, filed August 21, 1996, and entitled "Acidified Nitrite As An Antimicrobial Agent," which is a continuation of P.C.T. Patent Application Serial Number PCT/GB95/00338, filed February 17, 1995, and entitled "Acidified Nitrite As An Antimicrobial Agent," which is a continuation of Great Britain Patent Application Serial Number 9403284.4, filed February 21, 1994, and entitled "Acidified Nitrite As An Antimicrobial Agent" and a continuation of Great Britain Patent Application Serial Number 9404365.0, filed March 7, 1994, and entitled "Acidified Nitrite As An Antimicrobial Agent." U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/330,654 is also a continuation-in-part of PCT Patent Application Serial No. PCT/GB99/00605, filed March 1, 1999, and entitled "Inorganic Nitrite And Organic Acid In Combination As Topical Antiviral Composition," which is a continuation of Great Britain Patent Application Serial No. 9804469.6, filed March 2, 1998, and entitled "Antiviral Composition." The disclosure of the prior applications are incorporated herein by reference.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 15, line 23 as with the following amended paragraph:

--~~Figure 2 shows~~ Figures 2A and 2B show growth curves of E coli following exposure to acid alone or acid with a nitrite where the vertical axes are optical density in absorbance units and the horizontal axes are time in hours.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 16 as with the following amended paragraph:

--~~Figure 2 shows~~ Figures 2A and 2B show growth curves of E coli following exposure to acid alone (open symbols) or acid with 250 μM nitrite (closed symbols). Growth was significantly ($p<0.05$) impaired at pH 2, 3 and 4 in the presence of nitrite compared with control.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 17, line 21 as with the following amended paragraph:

--The same methods were used in Figure 1 except E coli (strain NCTC 10418 grown on MacConkey's agar) was used and nutrient broth (Oxoid CM1) was used in place of Sabouraud's broth. The results shown in ~~Figure 2~~ Figures 2A and 2B are a mean of 20 experiments. As can be seen from ~~Figure 2~~ Figures 2A and 2B E coli is more susceptible to acid than C albicans. Nevertheless exposure to pH 2 for one hour does not kill all the organisms as there is significant growth in the nutrient broth. At pH3 many more organisms survive. The addition of 250 μM nitrite to the exposure medium eliminates E coli at pH2 and significantly reduces the viability of this organism at pH3 and pH4. Nitrite at this concentration had no effect above pH4.--